

## REMARKS

Initially, is it noted that this Preliminary Amendment and Information Disclosure Statement is in the newly approved revised format of amendments, such that a complete listing of claims is included and each section begins on a separate page of this paper.

Claims 10-20 have been cancelled because they are directed to an invention elected for prosecution in the recently allowed parent application (i.e., U.S. Application No. 09/661,816, filed September 14, 2000). Accordingly, Claims 1-9 and 21-23 remain pending in the present divisional patent application.

In addition, the specification of the present divisional application has been amended, by the foregoing amendments, to include the required cross-reference to related applications, whereby the present divisional application claims priority benefit from the non-provisional parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 120, as well as from the provisional application relied upon by the parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

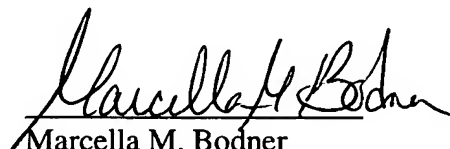
Furthermore, a typographical error was discovered during prosecution of the parent application. The remaining foregoing amendments to the specification and claims correct the aforesaid typographical error and are, therefore, not related to patentability of the present invention. More particularly, the process for preparing an extrudable powder blend of the present invention comprises blending a mixture comprising, among other things, at least one “high molecular weight polymer processing aid”. The words “molecular weight” were inadvertently omitted from this phrase everywhere it appeared in the present application. By the foregoing amendments, this omission has been corrected in the present specification and claims. No changes have been made to the discussion of the meaning of the term “high molecular weight polymer processing aid” that was provided in the present specification, nor to the disclosure of

exemplary high molecular weight polymer processing aids suitable for use in the present application. It is further noted that the claims have been amended to specify the basis of the recited weight percents for the various constituents of the powder blend (i.e., the claimed weight percents are "based upon the total weight of the powder blend").

In view of the foregoing remarks and explanation, it is believed that no new matter has been introduced into the present application by the foregoing amendments.

Accordingly, entry of the foregoing amendments, as well as early and favorable action on the present application, are hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marcella M. Bodner", is written over a horizontal line.

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